

Sinclair

Broadcasting uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Their decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and a clear violation of federal electoral regulations.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Worse yet, we get situations like the one mentioned above, in which large media groups feel free to flout regulations, since the punishment for such actions is less effective as a deterrent against such wealthy media corporations.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.